

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 303982

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, GY

SUBJECT:CUBAN AIRCRAFT REFUELING GUYANA

THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S NOON
BRIEFING DECEMBER 29:

Q: IN JERRY O'LEARY'S STORY SUNDAY HE, BESIDES DISCLOSING
THE SCHAUFLE MISSION, HE ALSO SPEAKS OF A QUIET ATTEMPT TO
PERSUADE GUYANA'S PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM TO DENY LANDING
RIGHTS TO CUBAN TROOP TRANSPORTS THAT HAVE BEEN BARRED
FROM REFUELING IN BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD. DO YOU HAVE ANY-
THING ON THAT?

A: I THINK WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF GUYANA, AS WE DID TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS. WE'RE
AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND THE ACTIVITIES
OF ANY OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THAT.

Q: DID THEY GIVE YOU ANY INDICATION?

A: WE HAVE NOT, AS FAR AS I KNOW, HAD A RESPONSE.

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Q: WHEN WAS THAT DONE? DO YOU KNOW?

A: I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT DATE. I THINK IT WAS PROBABLY WITHIN THE LAST 72 TO 96 HOURS.

Q: WELL, WHICH ONE? BOTH OF THEM ARE YOU SAYING?

A: BOTH WHICH? YOU MEAN BARBADOS AND GUYANA?

Q: YES.

A: I THINK WE SAID BEFORE HERE, I THINK LAST WEEK, THAT WE HAD EXPRESSED THE SAME CONCERN TO THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT. I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN WITHIN THE LAST FOUR DAYS THOUGH. THAT WAS SOMETIME LAST WEEK.

Q: ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS?

A: I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY.

Q: YOU'RE NOT AWARE OF TRINIDAD THEN?

A: NO.

Q: DIDN'T THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT BAN THE FLIGHTS OR THE TRANSPORTS?

A: I THINK THEY EXPRESSED SOMETHING TO THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT ON IT. YES, I THINK THEY REQUESTED THAT THE ACTIVITY CEASE. BUT I DON'T HAVE THE DETAILS OF HOW IT WAS DONE OR WHAT THE LANGUAGE WAS.

Q: BUT YOU HAVEN'T HAD A RESPONSE FROM GUYANA, OR HEARD OF A RESPONSE FROM GUYANA?

A: I SAID WE HAVEN'T. WE HAVE, AS FAR AS I KNOW, NOT HAD A RESPONSE. ROBINSON

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